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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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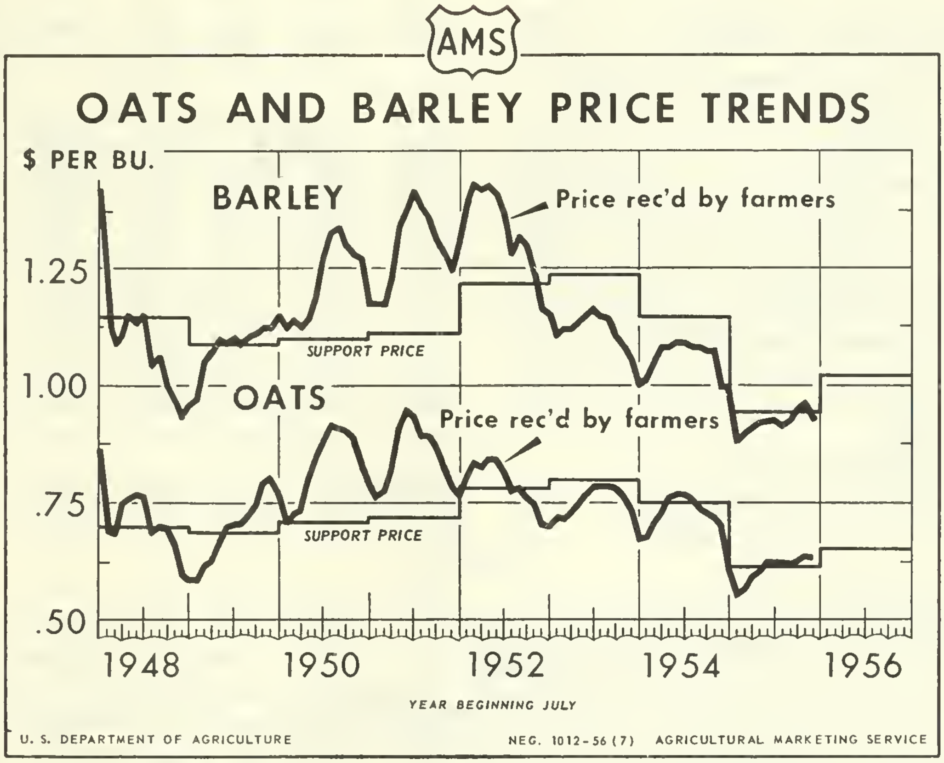
The FEED SITUATION

FDS-158

In this issue:
Agricultural Act of 1956 as it relates to feed crops
Feed grains and hay: Difference between early season and final estimates of supply and demand factors



Oats and barley prices have increased during the 1955-56 marketing year from the low points reached last summer. The higher supports this year and smaller 1956 crops, especially for oats, will give strength to prices of these grains in the 1956-57 season. The 1956 national average support price for oats is 65 cents per bushel, 4 cents higher than last year, and for barley $1.02 per bushel, an increase of 8 cents. Big crops and mounting stocks have resulted in prices falling below the supports during most of the past 3 years.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Table 1.- Statistical Summary

PRICES

Item	Unit	1954 May	1954 June	1955 May	1955 June	1956 April	1956 May	1956 June
		Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Grains and Hay								
Corn, No. 3 Yellow, Chicago	Bushel	1.58	1.61	1.48	1.47	1.45	1.52	1.53
Price received by farmers, U. S.	Bushel	1.47	1.49	1.40	1.40	1.32	1.39	1.42
Oats, No. 1 White, Chicago	Bushel	.819	.822	.778	.766	.696	.719	.730
No. 2 White, Minneapolis	Bushel	.825	.810	.741	.718	.650	.659	.645
Price received by farmers, U. S.	Bushel	.766	.735	.715	.698	.623	.634	.632
Barley, No. 3, Minneapolis	Bushel	1.46	1.38	1.29	1.29	1.19	1.20	1.12
Price received by farmers, U. S.	Bushel	1.08	1.05	1.07	.995	.949	.963	.931
Grain sorghums, price received by farmers, U.S.	100 pounds	2.47	2.27	2.39	2.24	1.93	2.02	2.02
Wheat, No. 2 Hard Winter, Kansas City	Bushel	2.37	2.15	2.53	2.19	2.33	2.24	2.10
Hay, No. 1 Alfalfa, baled, Kansas City	Ton	30.75	24.00	25.00	23.00	27.00	27.00	25.00
Price received by farmers, baled, U. S.	Ton	21.80	20.40	22.20	21.10	21.00	20.90	19.80
Byproduct Feeds (bagged)								
Standard bran, Minneapolis	Ton	48.00	40.50	40.50	38.50	46.10	46.80	37.50
Buffalo	Ton	50.60	45.50	47.00	46.10	52.60	52.20	45.00
Price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	3.36	3.15	3.07	2.99	3.02	3.18	3.00
Standard middlings, Minneapolis	Ton	52.50	49.00	47.60	49.50	46.25	48.10	41.75
Buffalo	Ton	53.60	50.90	52.20	52.40	53.75	54.60	49.40
Price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	3.55	3.47	3.32	3.32	3.10	3.29	3.16
Soybean meal, 44 percent protein, Chicago	Ton	101.35	98.35	64.15	62.35	64.20	70.80	71.90
Price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	5.99	5.67	4.35	4.17	3.92	4.20	4.29
Cottonseed meal, 41 percent protein, Memphis	Ton	67.60	64.90	60.40	58.90	51.25	53.70	53.75
Price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	4.42	4.32	4.20	4.14	3.65	3.71	3.72
Linseed meal, 36 percent protein, Minneapolis	Ton	82.75	63.70	60.90	61.00	55.25	58.60	57.75
Peanut meal, 45 percent protein, S. E. milling points	Ton	90.25	84.00	73.50	67.50	54.40	57.20	53.50
Gluten feed, 21 percent protein, Chicago *	Ton	62.25	55.60	48.20	47.00	45.75	51.00	49.50
Hominy feed, Chicago	Ton	56.60	53.60	51.50	51.75	54.10	57.10	54.50
Brewers' dried grains, 24 percent protein, Milwaukee	Ton	51.50	45.30	41.40	43.25	42.75	47.60	45.40
Distillers' dried grains, 28 percent protein, Cincinnati	Ton	72.65	64.40	57.80	56.60	54.50	55.30	55.50
Tankage digester, 60 percent protein, Chicago	Ton	122.20	117.55	77.35	74.45	70.30	76.00	76.40
Meat scraps, 50 percent protein, Chicago	Ton	118.60	117.90	73.60	69.95	67.50	74.45	75.50
Fish meal, 60 percent protein, Buffalo	Ton	134.40	135.30	138.75	137.50	135.60	136.25	136.55
Alfalfa meal, 17 percent dehydrated, Kansas City	Ton	44.75	40.00	39.10	36.10	45.50	41.20	35.50
Mixed dairy feed, 16 percent protein, price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	3.97	3.86	3.76	3.72	3.62	3.69	3.66
Laying mash, price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	5.10	5.00	4.68	4.62	4.42	4.57	4.57
Scratch feed, price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	4.38	4.36	4.27	4.24	4.05	4.14	4.14
INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES								
		Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Feed grains, price received by farmers, U. S.	1910-14=100	214	214	204	201	188	197	199
Eleven principal high-protein feeds, wholesale prices at terminal markets	1935-39=100	277	263	204	201	192	207	208
Five oilseed meals	1935-39=100	283	269	207	203	194	210	211
Tankage, meat scraps, and fish meal	1935-39=100	271	266	192	190	180	195	194
Gluten feed, brewers' dried grains, and distillers' dried grains	1935-39=100	251	224	199	197	193	209	205
Feed, price paid by farmers, U. S.	1910-14=100	233	227	218	214	204	211	209
LIVESTOCK-FEED PRICE RATIOS 1/								
(June average)								
Hog-corn, Chicago 2/ 1938-54= 12.9	Bushel	16.4	14.9	11.6	13.2	10.4	10.7	10.9
Hog-corn, U. S. farm price 1935-54= 12.6	Bushel	16.8	14.4	11.7	12.6	10.8	11.2	11.0
Beef-steer-corn, Chicago 3/ 1935-54= 15.1	Bushel	14.9	14.6	15.0	15.0	13.7	13.2	13.6
Milk-feed, U. S. 1935-54= 1.14	Pound	1.03	1.04	1.12	1.13	1.26	1.24	1.25
Butterfat-feed, U. S. 1935-54= 22.0	Pound	18.8	18.8	19.9	20.0	21.8	21.5	21.6
Egg-feed, U. S. 1945-54= 10.1	Pound	8.4	8.5	9.0	9.2	11.0	10.4	10.0
Farm chicken-feed, U. S. 1945-54= 6.9	Pound	5.0	4.8	5.4	5.3	5.6	5.3	4.9
Commercial broiler-feed, U. S. 1947-56= 5.3	Pound	4.3	4.5	5.3	5.4	4.2	4.2	3.9
Turkey-feed, U. S. 1945-54= 8.6	Pound	7.8	8.0	7.7	8.0	8.8	8.5	8.2

1/ Units of corn or other concentrate ration equal in value to 100 pounds of hog or beef-steer, one pound of chicken, butterfat, or milk, or one dozen eggs. 2/ Based on packer and shipper purchases of hogs and No. 3 Yellow corn. 3/ Based on price of beef-steers sold out of first hands for slaughter, and No. 3 Yellow corn.

* 23 percent protein in 1954 and 1955.

Prices compiled from Wall Street Journal, Chicago edition, Minneapolis Daily Market Record, Kansas City Grain Market Review, and reports of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

THE FEED SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, July 24, 1956

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SUMMARY

The supply of feed grains and other concentrates for 1956-57 will total around 195 million tons on the basis of July prospects, within 1 percent of the record supply last year, and 22 million tons above the 1949-53 average. A small decrease in the number of grain-consuming animal units is in prospect, resulting in a prospective supply per animal unit slightly above last year's record. A supply of this size would be sufficient to provide for 1956-57 requirements without materially reducing carryover stocks from the high level of this year.

The big supply in prospect is the result of a record feed grain carryover of about 44 million tons, up 5 million tons from last year, and prospects for above average feed grain production, only 5 percent below the big crop of last year. Total production of the four feed grains was estimated in July at 124 million tons, 7 million less than last year. Most of the reduction is in oats, supplies of which are down about 16 percent from last year. Moderately lower supplies of barley and sorghum grains are also expected. On the other hand, a very big corn supply of over 4.4 billion bushels is in prospect, 200 million bushels more than last year.

The 1956 hay supply is estimated at 123 million tons, 4 percent below last year's record. The prospective supply per animal unit is also 4 percent smaller than in 1955-56 or the 1949-53 average. Supplies of high protein feeds are expected to at least be as large as the big supplies for 1955-56. A further increase in soybean meal production is in prospect, but this probably will be offset, at least in part, by smaller production of cottonseed meal.

Prices of feed grains and most of the byproduct feeds have been comparatively stable in recent months, after rising from the seasonally low levels of last summer and fall. Increases since last fall have been most pronounced for corn, which went up 30 percent from November to June and soybean meal, which rose about 20 percent. The average price received by farmers for corn, however, continues well below the 1955 national average support of $1.58 per bushel and a little below the announced 1956 minimum national average support of $1.50 to cooperating producers in the commercial area. The higher 1956 supports for oats and barley and the smaller crops in prospect, especially oats, will give strength to the prices of these grains in 1956-57. Average prices received by farmers for oats and barley in June were a little below the 1956 supports.

The general rise in feed prices so far during the current feeding year is in contrast with generally declining prices in the same period of the 1954-55 season. Nevertheless, feed prices have been generally below those of a year earlier during most of the current feeding season. But in June the average price received by farmers for feed grains was within 1 percent of the level a year earlier, while the index of wholesale prices of high-protein feeds was 3 percent higher.

OUTLOOK FOR FEED SUPPLIES IN 1956-57

Prospective Supply of Feed Concentrate for 1956-57 Near Record Supply of Last Year

Based on prospects in early July, the supply of feed grains and other concentrates for 1956-57 will total about 195 million tons, within 2 million tons of the record supply for 1955-56 and 22 million tons above the 1949-53 average. Production of the 4 feed grains, based on July 1 indications, would total 124 million tons, 7 million tons less than in 1955, with a sharp reduction in the oats crop accounting for most of this decline. The carryover of feed grains into 1956-57, on the other hand, is expected to total around 5 million tons more than the record of 39 million tons last year. Supplies of byproduct feeds probably will be about the same while wheat feeding is expected to continue at the currently low level. Data on production and utilization have been revised for the years 1949-55 in tables 2 and 3, on the basis of data obtained from the 1954 Census of Agriculture.

Table 2 .- Feed concentrate balance, numbers of animal units, and feed per unit, United States, year beginning October, average 1949-53, and annual 1949-56

Item	Average 1949-53	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955 1/	1956 2/
	Mil. tons	Mil. tons	Mil. tons	Mil. tons	Mil. tons	Mil. tons	Mil. tons	Mil. tons	Mil. tons
Supply									
Stocks beginning of year 3/	27.4	30.4	30.6	28.7	20.2	27.0	31.3	39.0	44.0
Production of feed grains: 4/									
Corn	88.1	90.7	86.1	81.9	92.2	89.9	85.6	90.8	91.5
Oats	20.0	19.5	21.9	20.4	19.5	18.5	22.6	24.0	18.3
Barley	6.1	5.7	7.3	6.2	5.5	5.9	9.1	9.6	8.3
Sorghum grains	4.2	4.2	6.5	4.6	2.5	3.2	6.6	6.8	6.0
Total	118.4	120.1	121.8	113.1	119.7	117.5	123.9	131.2	124.1
Imports of feed grains	1.4	.8	1.0	1.4	1.9	1.9	.7	.7	.9
Wheat and rye fed	3.3	3.8	3.0	3.0	3.6	2.9	2.4	2.6	2.5
Byproduct feeds fed	22.4	20.8	22.2	22.7	22.8	23.3	23.2	23.4	23.5
Total supply	172.9	175.9	178.6	168.9	168.2	172.6	182.0	196.9	195.0
Utilization, October-September									
Concentrates fed 4/ 5/									
Corn	77.3	79.4	78.1	79.7	73.4	75.8	72.6	75.4	
Oats	18.5	17.8	19.2	19.7	18.0	18.1	19.9	20.5	
Barley and sorghum grains	6.0	5.1	7.3	6.6	5.2	5.8	6.9	9.4	
Wheat and rye	3.3	3.8	3.0	3.0	3.6	2.9	2.4	2.6	
Oilseed cake and meal	8.7	7.9	8.7	9.1	8.9	8.7	8.5	9.1	
Animal protein feeds	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.8	3.1	2.8	2.7	
Other byproduct feeds	10.9	10.3	10.9	10.9	11.1	11.5	11.9	11.6	
Total concentrates fed	127.5	126.9	129.8	131.7	123.0	125.9	125.0	131.3	
Feed grains for seed, human food and industry	12.4	12.6	13.8	12.2	11.9	11.8	12.6	12.8	
Exports	5.0	4.5	6.6	4.9	5.1	3.9	6.1	7.6	
Total utilization	144.9	144.0	150.2	148.8	140.0	141.6	143.7	151.7	
Utilization adjusted to crop year basis	145.2	145.3	149.9	148.7	141.2	140.8	143.0	152.9	
Stocks at end of crop year 3/	27.7	30.6	28.7	20.2	27.0	31.8	39.0	44.0	
Supply and utilization per animal unit									
Total supply (Million tons)	172.9	175.9	178.6	168.9	168.2	172.6	182.0	196.9	195.0
Concentrates fed (Million tons)	127.5	126.9	129.8	131.7	123.0	125.9	125.0	131.3	
Grain-consuming animal units (Millions) 4/ 6/	165.8	166.0	170.4	170.1	162.2	160.4	165.1	170.0	166.0
Supply per animal unit (Ton)	1.04	1.06	1.05	.99	1.04	1.08	1.10	1.16	1.17
Concentrates fed per animal unit (Ton)	.77	.76	.76	.77	.76	.78	.76	.77	

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Preliminary estimates based on indications in July, 1956. 3/ Stocks of corn and sorghum grains in all positions on October 1, and oats and barley on July 1. 4/ Revised on basis of data obtained from the 1954 Census of Agriculture. 5/ Total quantities fed in the U.S., including domestically produced and imported grains and byprodut feeds. 6/ Grain-consuming animal units fed during the October-September feeding season.

Agricultural Marketing Service.

The number of grain consuming animal units to be fed in the 1956-57 October-September feeding year is now expected to total about 166 million, 4 million less than in 1955-56, with practically all of the decrease in hogs. The prospective feed concentrate supply per animal unit for 1956-57 is estimated to be slightly above the record of 1.16 tons in 1955-56.

Record Carryover of Feed Grains in Prospect; Production Down 5 Percent

The total supply of feed grains for 1956-57 is now estimated at about 169 million tons, including a record carryover but a little smaller production than in 1955. This would be 2 million tons less than last year, but otherwise the largest on record. This includes the 1956 crop, estimated in July at 124 million tons, a prospective carryover of 44 million tons and an allowance of about 1 million tons for imports.

The acreage planted to feed grains this year is about 5 percent less than in 1955 when total acreage reached the highest level since 1944. The prospective harvested acreages of each of the four feed grains are smaller than in 1955 as follows: Corn, 3 percent; oats, 10 percent; barley, 12 percent and sorghum for all purposes, 5 percent. The 124-million-ton crop would be sufficient to take care of our prospective requirements for the coming year and leave another large carryover into the 1957-58 season. Although much will depend on growing conditions in the next few months, these early prospects point to near record feed grain supplies and a continuation of large carryover stocks for another year.

Corn Supply of Over 4.4 Billion Bushels in Prospect

Based on prospects in July the corn supply for 1956-57 will total about 4,468 million bushels, nearly 200 million above the previous record supply last year and nearly 600 million above the 1949-53 average. The 1956 corn crop was indicated on July 1 at 3,267 million bushels, slightly above the big crop of 1955 and the third largest on record. The condition of the corn crop on July 1 was uniformly good over most of the country with above average yields expected in most States. A corn crop of nearly 3.3 billion bushels probably would be somewhat above our total domestic and export requirements for 1956-57, which would mean some further increase in the carryover at the close of the 1956-57 season.

Disappearance of corn is now expected to total nearly 3.1 billion bushels during the current marketing year, an increase of about 4 percent over the 2,950 million bushels in 1954-55. Most of this increase is in feeding which is expected to be about 100 million bushels above the low level of 1954-55, though a substantial increase in exports also is in prospect. This would leave a carryover of about 1,200 million bushels next October 1, Table 3 .- Corn, oats, and barley: Supplies and utilization, United States, average 1949-53, annual 1949-56

Marketing year beginning 1/	Supply				Utilization 2/				
	Carry-over	Production 2/	Imports 3/	Total	Livestock feed 4/	Food and industrial use	Seed	Exports 5/	Total
	Mil. bu.	Mil. bu.	Mil. bu.	Mil. bu.	Mil. bu.	Mil. bu.	Mil. bu.	Mil. bu.	Mil. bu.
					Corn				
Average 1949-53	731	3,148	1	3,880	2,759	253	11	105	3,128
1949	813	3,238	1	4,052	2,835	254	11	107	3,207
1950	845	3,075	1	3,921	2,789	275	11	107	3,182
1951	739	2,926	1	3,666	2,846	246	11	76	3,179
1952	487	3,292	1	3,780	2,617	243	11	140	3,011
1953	769	3,210	1	3,980	2,707	246	11	96	3,060
1954	920	3,058	1	3,979	2,592	255	11	92	2,950
1955 6/	1,029	3,242	1	4,272	2,691	260	11	110	3,072
1956 7/	1,200	3,267	1	4,468					
					Oats				
Average 1949-53	266	1,247	52	1,565	1,164	38	105	4	1,311
1949	290	1,220	20	1,530	1,161	37	109	12	1,319
1950	211	1,369	30	1,610	1,178	38	99	3	1,318
1951	292	1,278	62	1,632	1,207	38	102	2	1,349
1952	283	1,217	69	1,569	1,172	38	104	1	1,315
1953	254	1,153	80	1,487	1,109	38	113	8/	1,260
1954	227	1,410	20	1,657	1,189	38	114	13	1,354
1955 6/	303	1,499	3	1,805	1,288	38	107	25	1,458
1956 7/	347	1,144	9/	9/1,511					
					Barley				
Average 1949-53	80	255	22	357	142	93	19	30	284
1949	101	237	18	356	140	93	21	22	276
1950	80	304	14	398	145	101	18	40	304
1951	94	257	13	364	152	93	15	31	291
1952	73	228	25	326	134	88	16	37	275
1953	51	247	38	336	130	92	24	19	265
1954	71	379	24	474	184	89	27	43	343
1955 6/	131	400	27	558	226	91	24	102	443
1956 7/	115	348	9/	9/488					

1/ Marketing year beginning October 1 for corn and July 1 for oats and barley. 2/ Revised on basis of the 1954 Census of Agriculture. The series on supply and utilization are subject to further revision when data on stocks are revised. 3/ Includes grain equivalent of products. 4/ Residual; includes small quantities for other uses and waste. 5/ Corn and oats, grain only; barley includes grain equivalent of malt. 6/ Preliminary. 7/ Based on indications in July. 8/ Less than 500,000 bushels. 9/ The total supply includes an allowance for imports at about the 1954-55 rate.

an increase of about 170 million bushels over the carryover on that date last year. Allowing for a minimum of about 150 to 200 million bushels of "free" corn for working stocks, including "pipeline" requirements, this would mean that about 1,000 to 1,050 million bushels would remain under loan or owned by CCC on that date.

The acreage planted to corn in 1956 dropped below 80 million acres for the first time since 1893. The 79.0 million acres planted was 2.5 million less than in 1955 and more than 4 million below the 1949-53 average. Corn acreage has trended downward during the past 25 years, with much of the reduction in recent years occurring in the South. This year, however, reductions from a year earlier were general in most areas of the country. The acreage planted in the North Central States was 1.5 million less than in 1955 with substantial reductions indicated for Illinois and South Dakota. The acreage of corn planted to hybrids continues to increase as the use of hybrid varieties expands in the Southern and Western States. This year 90.8 percent of the total acreage for the country was planted with hybrid seed, an increase of 1.4 percent from 1955.

Smaller Supplies of Oats and Barley

The total supply of oats for 1956-57 was estimated in July at a little over 1.5 billion bushels, nearly 300 million bushels below the big supply of last year. The crop was estimated in July at 1,144 million bushels, 355 million less than last year and the smallest since 1943. The decline is the result of a 9.5 percent reduction in the acreage to be harvested and a much lower yield per acre than last year's record. Both acreage and yield this year are below the 1945-54 average. Record stocks of oats totaling 347 million bushels were carried over on July 1, 44 million bushels larger than a year earlier. Imports of oats have declined sharply in the past 2 years from 80 million bushels in 1953-54 to only about 3 million in 1955-56. This reduction was principally due to the much larger domestic supplies and the lower prices in this country in 1955-56. With a much smaller domestic supply this year, it is assumed that imports will increase from the low level of the past year and they may be somewhere near the 20 million bushels of 1954-55.

The supply of barley for 1956-57 is estimated at 488 million bushels, 13 percent below the big supply last year, but substantially larger than in most recent years. The carryover of 115 million bushels on July 1, was 16 million less than the record of a year earlier, while the 1956 crop estimated in July at 348 million bushels is 52 million bushels smaller. The estimated supply also includes an allowance for imports at somewhere near the rate of around 25 million bushels for the past 2 years. The smaller crop this year than in 1955 is largely the result of a reduction of nearly 2 million acres in the acreage to be harvested. This reduction follows the sharp increase in the harvested acreage of barley from 8.7 million acres in 1953 to

14.6 million in 1955 when barley was seeded on land taken out of wheat and cotton. The 12.9 million acres of barley to be harvested this year is still more than 2 million acres above the 1945-54 average. Most of the prospective cut in production from 1955 is in the important producing States of the midwest where most of the malting barley is produced. Lower production is also indicated in some of the mountain States.

The first estimate of the 1955 sorghum grain crop will not be made until August. Early indications, however, are that the crop may not be quite as large as the record output of 241 million bushels in 1956. The total acreage of sorghums to be harvested for all purposes this year was estimated in July at 19.9 million acres or about 5 percent less than in 1955, which may mean a little smaller acreage harvested for grain. The carryover of sorghum grains next October 1 is expected to be at least equal to the record of 74 million bushels last year.

Smaller Hay Supply in Prospect; Pastures Below Average

The total hay supply for 1956-57 was estimated in July at 123 million tons, 4.5 million tons below the record supply last year, but 3.5 million above the 1949-53 average. The number of hay consuming animal units on farms is expected to be slightly larger in 1956-57 continuing the upward trend of recent years. Based on these early indications, the supply per animal unit would be about 4 percent smaller than last year and also below the 1949-53 average.

Total hay production was estimated at 107 million tons in July, 5 percent less than the record crop of last year, but slightly above the 1949-53 average. Most of the prospective reduction from a year earlier is in the area from Nebraska and Iowa southward to Texas. Smaller hay production, however, is indicated for all regions east of the Rocky Mountains, while the crop in the Western States is larger than last year. This year's crop of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures is estimated at 59.3 million tons, slightly larger than last year and 44 percent larger than the average of the past 10 years. Acreage and production of alfalfa hay has increased sharply in the past 7 years.

Pastures have furnished much less feed than usual this spring and early summer as a result of dry weather over much of the Great Plains from North Dakota to Texas and in the Western Corn Belt. On July 1 the condition of pastures averaged 71 percent of "normal", 12 percentage points below last year and 13 points below average for that date. The July 1 condition was the lowest for this date since 1936 when it was 58 percent of normal. Drought conditions continued in parts of the Great Plains, the Southeast and Southwest during June and early July. In other areas of the country, pastures were relatively good and were supplying ample feed for livestock on July 1.

Table 4.- Hay supply and disappearance per animal unit, United States, average 1949-53, annual 1949-56 1/

Year beginning May	Production	Carryover May 1	Total supply	Disappearance	Supply per animal unit	Disappearance per animal unit	Roughage-consuming animal units 2/
	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	Tons	Tons	Thousands
Average 1949-53	104,989	14,704	119,693	104,869	1.65	1.45	72,351
1949	96,982	14,602	111,584	97,353	1.65	1.44	67,436
1950	103,822	14,231	118,053	103,041	1.70	1.48	69,503
1951	109,508	15,012	124,520	109,562	1.72	1.52	72,317
1952	106,389	14,958	121,347	106,628	1.60	1.41	75,688
1953	108,243	14,719	122,962	107,759	1.60	1.40	76,809
1954	107,834	15,203	123,037	108,150	1.60	1.41	76,874
1955	112,782	14,887	127,669	111,633	1.66	1.45	76,914
1956 3/	107,111	16,036	123,147		1.59		77,500

1/ Data for 1949-55 have been revised on the basis of the 1954 Census of Agriculture, except carryover stocks which will be revised later.
2/ Roughage-consuming animal units fed annually. For weights see table 107, page 88, Grain and Feed Statistics, March, 1955.
3/ Preliminary, based on indications in July.

Table 5 .- Hay production and pasture conditions, by regions, average 1945-54, 1955 and 1956

Region	Hay production 1/			Pasture condition 2/		
	Average 1945-54	1955	1956 3/	Average 1945-54	1955	1956
	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	Percent	Percent	Percent
North Atlantic	13,127	12,102	12,086	86	81	87
East North Central	21,291	23,370	22,763	89	91	90
West North Central	31,750	35,652	31,704	87	84	60
South Atlantic	5,916	6,368	5,701	82	81	74
South Central	10,818	12,415	11,085	76	77	61
Western	20,746	22,875	23,772	80	81	74
United States	103,648	112,782	107,111	84	83	71

1/ Revised on the basis of the 1954 Census of Agriculture.
2/ Condition July 1 as a percentage of "normal".
3/ Indicated July 1.

Byproduct Feed Supplies Expected to be Maintained at the 1955-56 Level

Total supplies of byproduct feed available for feeding in 1956-57 are expected to be maintained at least at the 1955-56 rate of a little over 23 million tons. Supplies of oilseed cake and meal probably will be as large or a little larger than the total of about 9.1 million tons estimated to be fed in the current feeding year. Production of oilseed cake and meal in the 1955-56 October-September feeding year is expected to set a new record of over 9.8 million tons, nearly a million more than in 1954-55. But the quantity fed has not increased proportionately because of the heavy exports, which totaled 552,000 tons during October-May, and increasing stocks. Soybean acreage is larger this year and with an average growing season the crop will be up from 1955. This probably would mean some further increase in the production of soybean meal in 1956-57. However, the increase could be at least partly offset by smaller production of cottonseed meal, since the cotton acreage is a little smaller than in 1955 and last year's yield per acre was the highest on record. The 1956 flaxseed crop is slightly larger than last year. No marked changes are in prospect for linseed meal or other major byproduct feeds.

While these early prospects do not indicate any material change in total supplies of high protein feeds or other byproduct feeds in 1956-57, much will depend on the final outcome of the 1956 crops and changes in foreign trade in oilseed meals.

Reduced Hog Production Expected to Result in Fewer Grain Consuming Animal Units in 1956-57

The cutback in hog production this spring and indicated for this fall by farmers' plans in June is expected to result in 2.4 percent reduction in the number of grain consuming animal units to be fed in the 1956-57 feeding year. The number of grain consuming animal units on farms increased from 160 million in 1953-54 to 170 million in 1955-56. Based on present prospects the number in 1956-57 will drop back to around 166 million, about equal to the 1949-53 average.

The 1956 spring pig crop was estimated in June at 53.1 million head, a decline of 8 percent from the spring pig crop of 1955. Producers also indicated their plans to reduce the fall crop by 7 percent from that of last year. Thus, present indications are that hog production will be about 7 or 8 percent smaller this fall and winter than a year earlier.

The number of cattle being grain fed for market is below the high level of last year and probably will continue under a year ago during the last half of 1956. On April 1 there were 8 percent fewer cattle on feed in the 13 principal feeding States than a year earlier and on July 1 there were 10 percent fewer. On the other hand, the rate of turnover in feed lots will likely be faster the rest of this year than last. While the total number of cattle to be slaughtered in the second half of 1956 is expected to be about the same as last year, it will include more cattle off grass and fewer from feed lots. Dairy farmers have been feeding their cows at heavy rates this spring and summer. On June 1 the rate of feeding grain and other concentrates was 14 percent above the level of June 1 last year and 27 above the 10 year average. Heavy feeding is partly the result of poor pastures in many areas which has increased the requirements of grain and other feeds.

Poultry production is at a higher level than in 1955 and there is a stronger demand for poultry feeds. Production of broilers in 1956 probably will exceed 1955 by perhaps 20 percent and turkey production is also up substantially. Egg production this year is likely to exceed the 1955 record. While there were few layers on farms in the early part of 1956 than in 1955, there has been an increase in the number of chickens raised this year and on July 1 the number of layers was slightly above a year ago. The number of layers on farms is expected to continue above a year earlier this summer and fall.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

Bulk of the Record July 1 Stocks of Corn under Price Support or Owned by CCC

Stocks of corn in all positions on July 1 totaled 1,746 million bushels, 145 million more than a year earlier and the largest on record for that date. These stocks would be sufficient to provide for a disappearance of corn during July-September at about the same high rate as last year and leave a carryover next October 1 of close to 1,200 million bushels. This would be about an eighth larger than the record carryover last year.

On July 1 1,193 million bushels of corn were under loan and purchase agreement or owned by CCC, a little over two-thirds of the total stocks in all positions. This was 265 million bushels more than a year earlier (table 6). Stocks under the price support program included 701 million owned by CCC, 409 million under loan and purchase agreement from the 1955 crop and 83 million of old corn resealed on farms. The remaining stocks on July 1 totaled 553 million which was 120 million less than a year earlier. The "free" corn available for the July-September quarter appears to be considerably below July-September requirements for domestic use, exports and "free" stocks next October 1. The 553 million bushels of "free" corn on hand July 1 compares with a total requirement of 702 million bushels for domestic use, export and "free" carryover stocks in July-September, 1955. This would indicate that substantial quantities will have to be withdrawn from price support between now and next October 1.

The carryover stocks of oats on July 1 totaled 347 million bushels which was 44 million more than on that date last year and a new record. While more oats were held under the price support program than a year earlier, "free" stocks also were a little larger, (table 6).

Table 6.- Feed grains: Total stocks and quantities under loan and owned by CCC, July 1, 1955 and 1956

Item	Corn		Oats		Barley		Sorghum grain
	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1956
	Mil. bu.	Mil. bu.	Mil. bu.	Mil. bu.	Mil. bu.	Mil. bu.	Mil. bu.
Under loan and owned by CCC 1/							
Old grain resealed	105	83	3	2/4	2	2/2	3/
Under price support from preceding crop 4/	242	5/409	17	2/27	12	2/24	3/
Owned by CCC	581	701	40	59	74	60	101
Total	928	1,193	60	90	88	86	101
Not under price support support 6/	673	553	243	257	43	29	17
Total stocks	1,601	1,746	303	347	131	115	118

1/ Based on reports of Commodity Stabilization Service. 2/ Preliminary estimates. 3/ Less than 500,000 bushels. 4/ Loans outstanding, plus grain under purchase agreement delivered to CCC or placed under the reseal program after July 1. 5/ Total quantity of 1955 corn placed under price support less redemptions through June 15. 6/ Residual.

The carryover of barley on July 1 totaled 115 million bushels 16 million less than the record stocks on that date last year. The bulk of the 1955 carryover of barley was owned by CCC or under loan and "free" stocks on July 1 were much smaller than on that date last year.

April-June Disappearance of Feed Grains about the Same as a Year Earlier

The domestic disappearance of corn, oats and barley during April-June totaled 21.3 million tons or about the same as in that quarter of last year and also close to the 1949-53 average. About 536 million bushels of corn were used domestically, slightly more than in that period last year. Domestic use of oats and barley was about the same as a year earlier. Exports of the 3 grains during the quarter totaled about 1,850,000 tons, more than double those in the same quarter of last year.

Table 7.- Corn, oats and barley: Domestic disappearance and exports, United States, April-June 1955 and 1956

Grain	1955 1/			1956		
	Domestic disappearance	Exports	Total	Domestic disappearance	Exports	Total
	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels
Corn	526	17	543	536	33	569
Oats	301	7	308	296	9	305
Barley	67	14	81	67	33	100
	Million tons	Million tons	Million tons	Million tons	Million tons	Million tons
Total	21.2	.9	22.1	21.3	1.9	23.2

1/ Unrevised. Subject to revision when data on stocks are revised.

2/ Partly estimated.

Table 8.- Corn: Price supports and quantity under loan and purchase agreement, United States, 1948-55

Year	National average support price	Average price (Nov.-May) 1/	Difference	Quantity placed under price support			Percentage of production
				Loan	Purchase agreement	Total	
	Dol. per bu.	Dol. per bu.	Dol. per bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	Pct.
1948	1.44	1.20	- .24	354,759	196,123	550,882	15.3
1949	1.40	1.18	- .22	328,935	57,781	386,716	11.9
1950	1.47	1.55	.08	51,554	2,505	54,059	1.8
1951	1.57	1.66	.09	25,207	970	26,177	.9
1952	1.60	1.47	- .13	309,243	107,924	417,167	12.7
1953	1.60	1.42	- .18	368,872	102,215	471,087	14.7
1954	1.62	1.38	- .24	198,991	59,522	258,513	8.5
1955	1.58	1.21	- .37	2/355,579	2/64,731	2/420,310	2/13.0

1/ Average price received by farmers during period when most of the corn was placed under price support.

2/ Preliminary.

The domestic consumption of corn during the first 9 months of the current marketing year totaled about 2,430 million bushels, 5 percent more than the comparatively light disappearance in that period last year, but a little less than the 1949-53 average. Total disappearance of oats and barley during the July-June 1955-56 marketing year was near record, with oats disappearance up 8 percent from a year earlier and barley up 29 percent (table 3). Exports of feed grains during 1955-56 have been the heaviest in recent years, especially barley which reached an all time high of slightly over 100 million bushels.

420 Million Bushels of 1955 Corn Placed under Price Support

The 420 million bushels of 1955 corn placed under loan and purchase agreement--nearly all in the commercial area--was much larger than the 259 million in 1954, but fell somewhat short of 471 million in 1953. Larger corn supplies and lower prices in 1955-56 were mainly responsible for the larger quantity of corn going under price support. The increase in the percentage of the corn in the commercial area eligible for loans from about 30 percent in 1954 to 40 percent in 1955 also was a factor. Forty percent of the 1955 production in the commercial area would be close to 1,000 million bushels. Thus, the 420 million bushels would be a little over 40 percent of the total corn eligible, the highest percentage of record. The 259 million in 1954 was about 33 percent of the total corn eligible in the commercial area that year.

The average price received by farmers for corn during November-May was $1.21 per bushel, 37 cents below the national average support level. This difference was greater than for any other year of the price support program. The relatively low price this past fall and winter reflected the large supplies in the Corn Belt, the fact that 60 percent of the corn in the commercial area that was not eligible for price support and the big crop in the South where the support rates were only 75 percent of the rate based on the commercial area rate.

Market Receipts of Corn Decline Below a Year Earlier

Market receipts of corn have declined rather sharply since last spring and during June and early July they were below a year earlier. Declining receipts apparently reflect a tightening of "free" supplies on farms and reduced sales by farmers. Sales by CCC, part of which are also included in market receipts, were at a higher level during June and early July than a year ago. For the first 9 months of the current marketing year market receipts of corn totaled 219 million bushels, about the same as in that period of 1954-55.

Stocks of corn at terminal markets have been consistently higher than a year earlier so far this season. In May they reached a record level of close to 90 million bushels. Since then, terminal stocks have declined, but

Table 9.- Corn: Market receipts and terminal stocks, by months, October-June, by weeks, June-July, 1953-54, 1954-55 and 1955-56

Period	Market receipts			Terminal market stocks		
	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Monthly 1/						
October	52,014	21,215	36,108	23,072	20,560	38,721
November	48,752	53,794	43,922	45,703	41,009	60,841
December	18,424	31,083	18,076	43,967	59,305	70,910
January	21,579	27,731	18,143	38,221	62,809	72,514
February	25,032	19,423	19,283	35,338	63,192	74,650
March	24,746	15,649	23,366	35,024	54,875	80,645
April	22,798	12,949	23,592	24,451	46,385	84,793
May	25,835	18,433	21,569	16,984	40,930	89,221
June	25,147	19,053	14,253	15,977	38,206	79,720
Week ended 2/						
June 2	5,389	4,873	3,095	17,697	41,315	87,954
9	5,539	4,169	3,458	16,288	40,606	86,131
16	5,474	3,684	3,888	15,894	40,417	83,654
23	5,307	4,649	3,618	15,977	38,206	82,465
30	5,381	4,660	3,177	15,945	36,805	79,720
July 7	5,289	3,647	1,943	15,660	37,882	76,938
14	5,632	4,031	2,864	14,652	34,861	71,881
21	5,590	3,466	4,020	15,732	32,202	3/69,700

1/ Market receipts during the month and stocks on last Saturday within the month.

2/ Stocks at terminal markets on Saturday and market receipts for week ended previous Friday.

3/ Preliminary.

Table 10.- Feed grains: Receipts at primary markets, June, average 1950-54, 1954, 1955, and March-June 1956

Item	June			1956			
	Average 1950-54	1954	1955	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
Corn, 12 markets 1/	23,543	25,147	19,053	23,366	23,592	21,569	14,253
Oats, 12 markets 1/	7,880	7,241	8,238	4,663	4,425	8,152	9,891
Barley, 4 markets 2/	6,992	8,226	18,427	14,838	16,901	23,361	19,875

1/ Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Duluth, St. Louis, Kansas City, Peoria, Omaha, Indianapolis, Sioux City, St. Joseph and Wichita.

2/ Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Chicago and Duluth.

the 78 million bushels on hand July 1 was about double stocks on that date last year and were much larger than in other recent years for that date. Of this total, about 47 million bushels were owned by CCC leaving about 31 million bushels in private ownership.

Reseal Program for 1953 Corn Announced

The Department of Agriculture announced on July 6 that the extension of loans on 1953 corn, now under the reseal program, will be permitted for another year, following the July 31, 1956 maturity date for these loans. State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committees in 13 States where 1953-crop corn is stored will determine whether or not the extension should apply in their States. Farmers who hold the 1953 corn until July 31, 1957 will receive a storage payment of 16 cents per bushel for the year's storage, in addition to the storage payments of 15 cents received for each of the years 1954-55 and 1955-56. Proportionate payments will be made for those holding their corn for only part of the year. About 39 million bushels of 1953 corn were under the reseal program in early July. Reseal programs were announced for 1954 corn on April 17 and for 1955 corn on February 10.

Feed Prices Near Last Year's Level

Cash prices of feed grains and most of the byproduct feeds have been comparatively stable during the past 2 or 3 months after rising from the seasonally low points reached last summer and fall. Increases since last fall have been most pronounced for corn which was about 30 percent higher in June than last November and soybean meal which was about 20 percent higher. The general rise in feed prices so far during the current feeding year is in contrast with generally declining prices in the same period of 1954-55. Feed prices were much below those of a year earlier at the beginning of the current feeding season, but increases since then brought the average price received by farmers for feed grains in June to within 1 percent of the level of a year earlier, and the index of wholesale prices of high-protein feeds to 3 percent above.

The increase in average price received by farmers for corn from $1.09 last November to $1.42 in June was somewhat more than the usual seasonal increase for this period. The average price, however, is still well below the national average support price of $1.58 per bushel for 1955 corn. The big production and record carryover of corn in prospect for 1956 probably would result in corn prices averaging below the support level again in the 1956-57 season, although they probably will average higher relative to the loan than in 1955-56. The 1956 support for cooperating producers has been announced at a national average rate of not less than $1.50 per bushel, 8 cents below the 1955 rate. A support price at a national average rate of not less than $1.25 per bushel also will be available for the first time to noncooperating producers in the commercial area.

Table 11.- Feed grains: Average prices received by farmers and national average support prices, United States, 1948-56

Year beginning July	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Support price 1/
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
	Oats (per bushel)												
1948	.866	.688	.687	.699	.756	.765	.762	.689	.700	.698	.660	.601	.70
1949	.583	.582	.613	.623	.664	.699	.705	.706	.723	.749	.788	.804	.69
1950	.763	.706	.728	.735	.806	.849	.882	.919	.909	.907	.889	.829	.71
1951	.783	.759	.775	.819	.911	.949	.938	.890	.891	.871	.822	.781	.72
1952	.761	.800	.835	.828	.845	.842	.821	.773	.783	.763	.749	.705	.78
1953	.701	.717	.714	.727	.745	.767	.779	.781	.781	.780	.766	.735	.80
1954	.668	.675	.711	.731	.761	.767	.768	.757	.737	.727	.715	.698	.75
1955	.598	.549	.563	.591	.605	.626	.622	.619	.618	.623	.634	.632	.61
1956													.65
	Barley (per bushel)												
1948	1.42	1.14	1.08	1.10	1.15	1.13	1.15	1.04	1.06	1.00	.970	.928	1.15
1949	.957	.968	1.05	1.07	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.11	1.12	1.12	1.09
1950	1.15	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.14	1.19	1.27	1.33	1.34	1.30	1.28	1.22	1.10
1951	1.17	1.17	1.17	1.23	1.34	1.38	1.42	1.38	1.36	1.31	1.28	1.24	1.11
1952	1.31	1.39	1.43	1.42	1.43	1.41	1.37	1.28	1.32	1.30	1.24	1.16	1.22
1953	1.15	1.10	1.12	1.12	1.13	1.15	1.16	1.15	1.14	1.10	1.08	1.05	1.24
1954	1.00	1.01	1.05	1.08	1.08	1.09	1.09	1.08	1.08	1.07	1.07	.995	1.15
1955	.955	.884	.899	.909	.919	.920	.924	.915	.925	.949	.963	.931	.94
1956													1.02

Year beginning July	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Support price 1/
	Corn (per bushel)												
1948	1.38	1.21	1.23	1.25	1.12	1.18	1.22	1.22	1.21	1.25	1.18	1.16	1.44
1949	1.09	1.02	1.13	1.15	1.16	1.19	1.26	1.34	1.36	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.40
1950	1.37	1.37	1.45	1.54	1.60	1.60	1.62	1.64	1.62	1.63	1.65	1.65	1.47
1951	1.64	1.61	1.68	1.68	1.65	1.65	1.68	1.70	1.73	1.73	1.73	1.71	1.57
1952	1.53	1.45	1.50	1.48	1.43	1.46	1.46	1.49	1.46	1.47	1.48	1.50	1.60
1953	1.34	1.33	1.41	1.42	1.43	1.44	1.45	1.47	1.49	1.50	1.53	1.53	1.60
1954	1.45	1.37	1.39	1.40	1.40	1.36	1.36	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.30	1.24	2/1.62
1955	1.14	1.09	1.15	1.16	1.18	1.20	1.32	1.39	1.42				2/1.58
1956													2/3/1.50
	Sorghum grain (per hundredweight)												
1948	1.98	2.13	2.19	2.22	2.07	2.17	2.18	2.15	2.04	1.95	1.87	1.80	2.31
1949	1.72	1.66	1.79	1.89	1.88	1.93	1.98	1.97	1.93	1.90	1.88	1.77	2.09
1950	1.63	1.77	1.88	2.10	2.18	2.12	2.14	2.22	2.16	2.09	2.09	2.12	1.87
1951	2.15	2.37	2.51	2.53	2.51	2.52	2.56	2.60	2.68	2.69	2.90	3.02	2.17
1952	2.87	2.82	2.84	2.74	2.65	2.66	2.52	2.48	2.39	2.42	2.42	2.26	2.38
1953	2.19	2.18	2.21	2.29	2.32	2.40	2.43	2.47	2.27	2.20	2.22	2.16	2.43
1954	2.14	2.16	2.22	2.26	2.26	2.23	2.23	2.39	2.24	1.96	1.77	1.67	2.28
1955	1.63	1.67	1.72	1.78	1.81	1.84	1.93	2.02	2.02				1.78
1956													1.97

1/ National average support price. 2/ Basis for support rates for producers in the commercial area who plant within their acreage allotments. Supports in the noncommercial area were 75 percent of the rates for the commercial area in 1954 and 1955, and will be 82½ percent in 1956.
3/ Minimum support. This will be increased if necessary to reflect 82½ percent of parity at the beginning of the 1956-57 marketing year. The basic support to non-cooperators in the commercial area is $1.25 per bushel, but not less than 70 percent of parity at the beginning of the marketing year.

While the lack of adequate storage, resulting from big corn supplies, contributes to low corn prices in relation to the support level, there are other factors which tend to bring corn prices at harvest time below the national average support. Some of the more important of these are as follows: (1) The quality of the corn. The farm price is the average price of all corn sold, including some corn grading too low to qualify for support. Under the terms of the loan program high moisture corn is discounted in determining the quantity going under price support. Corn having a moisture content of 15.6 to 16.5 percent is discounted 2 percent and the discounts are graduated for increasing moisture content so that corn testing as much as 19.6 to 20.5 percent is discounted 10 percent. (2) Cost of storage. Farmers who place their corn under price support must store it until near the end of the marketing season, thus bearing the cost of storage during the first year the grain is under support. (3) Cost involved in putting corn under loans. Cost of obtaining loans, loss encountered in storage, risk, insect control and other items involved in storing corn also must be allowed for in comparing the loan rate and the cash market price. It is estimated that the total of the above factors may account for 15 to 20 cents of the difference between the local market price and the support level.

Oats and barley prices have declined in recent years from well above the support level in the 1950-52 period to below during most of the past 2 years. The big crops and mounting stocks have been major factors contributing to weakness in the prices of these grains, while large imports in some recent years, as well as lower price supports in 1955-56, also have influenced prices. During May and June barley prices declined seasonally, while oats prices were steady. Since July central market prices of both oats and barley have strengthened contra-seasonally. The strength in oats prices reflects the much smaller crop this year and the increase in the 1956 support price. The average price received by farmers for oats in June was 63 cents per bushel or 2 cents below the 1956 national average support. The average price of barley was 93 cents per bushel, 9 cents below the 1956 support.

Prices of most of the high protein feeds have been comparatively stable in recent months, after advancing from the low levels of last fall and winter. The price of soybean meal at Chicago increased $12.00 per ton from November to June, but lost some of this gain in the first half of July. Meat scraps have increased $12.00 per ton and tankage $9.00 per ton since February. Prices of these feeds in recent weeks have been higher than a year earlier. The stronger demand for poultry feeds and heavy exports of soybean meal appear to be important factors strengthening prices of these feeds in spite of the much heavier production of soybean meal this year. While prices of cottonseed meal and linseed meal have strengthened during the past 2 or 3 months, they were 5 to 10 percent lower than a year ago in June and early July. The price of gluten feed also has advanced since last fall and in June was a little higher than a year earlier. Price of wheat millfeeds has declined rather sharply from the seasonally high levels reached this spring and in the first half of July prices of the feeds were a little lower than a year earlier.

Emergency Feed Program Announced for 1956

An emergency feed program for 1956 was announced in early July following the 1955 program which ended June 30. The 1956 program will operate under practically the same provisions as the 1955 program, except for minor revisions. As in 1955, the program enables eligible farmers and stockmen in the designated areas to obtain feed grains and approved mixed feeds at prices of about $1.00 per hundredweight below the local market prices. On July 23, the designated disaster areas included 162 counties in nine States as follows: Arizona, 5; Colorado, 10; Kansas, 25; Nevada, 1; New Mexico, 28; Oklahoma, 6; South Dakota 8; Texas, 78 and Utah, 1.

Under the 1955 program, which was in operation during the 1955-56 fiscal year, purchase orders were approved for 755,000 tons of feed grains (or approved mixed feeds). The drought area in 1955-56 was much smaller than in the previous year and the quantity of feed orders approved was only about one-fourth of the 2.9 million tons for 1954-55. From August 1954 through June 7, 1956 purchase orders were issued calling for about 3.7 million tons of feed. This included approximately 23 million bushels of corn, 5 million bushels of oats, 2 million bushels of barley and 17 million bushels of sorghum grain furnished from CCC stocks.

Argentine Corn Supply Estimated at 175 Million Bushels

The total Argentine corn supply for 1956-57 (April-March) marketing year is now estimated at 175 million bushels, 70 million more than in 1955-56. Practically all of this is from the crop harvested this spring, as the carryover of old corn on April 1 was negligible. Such a supply will provide a much larger exportable surplus for the 1956-57 season than was available in 1955-56. In 1955-56 exports totaled only about 21 million bushels which was the smallest in recent years. In 1954-55, when the crop was about the same size as this year, 79 million bushels were exported.

PROVISIONS OF AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 1956 AND SUBSEQUENT ACTION OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RELATING TO FEED CROPS

The Agricultural Act of 1956 passed by Congress late in May contains a number of provisions having an important bearing on corn and other feed crops. In addition to the Soil Bank, the Act carries provisions for the disposal of surplus commodities and for changes in corn acreage allotments and price supports for feed grains.

The Soil Bank Act contains two major programs. A. The Acreage Reserve program. B. The Conservation Reserve program. The Acreage Reserve program provides for cash payments to producers of basic crops for reducing the acreage of these crops below specified levels. The Act provides an upper limit of 750 million dollars for this program. The maximum payments for individual crops are as follows: 300 million dollars for corn; 375 million for wheat; 300 million for cotton and 75 million for other basic crops.

Reports are being issued periodically by the Department of Agriculture summarizing the operations of the 1956 Acreage Reserve program. The latest report on the operation of the program revealed that through July 13 farmers had signed agreements placing nearly 4.4 million acres of the 6 basic crops under the Acreage Reserve program. Payments farmers can earn under the program for the acreages covered by these agreements totaled 93.6 million dollars. The above includes 1,847,000 acres of corn for which payments total 67.2 million dollars. This would reflect an average rate of payment of $36 per acre for the corn covered in this report. Farmers can sign up for the program through July 27 and the above figures will be changed by later reports.

The Conservation Reserve program provides for cash payments to producers for taking land out of cultivated crops and devoting it to soil conserving purposes. Land taken out of cultivation under this program probably would come largely from feed crops, since these crops are grown on most of the land that would come under the program. In 1955, oats, barley, sorghums and tame hay made up about 80 percent of the total cultivated acreage exclusive of that planted to the basic crops. Because of the higher payments under the Acreage Reserve program it is assumed that land taken out of the basic crops would come mostly under this program. The Act provides for an upper limit of 450 million dollars for any one year for carrying out the Conservation Reserve program.

A summary of some of the other more important provisions of the Agricultural Act of 1956 and recent actions of the Department of Agriculture relating to feed crops follows.

Base Acreage for Corn

The Act brings into effect in the 1956 commercial area a Soil Bank corn base acreage, in addition to the existing corn acreage allotments, under which producers may qualify for eligibility for price support. The Soil Bank corn base acreage is 51 million acres for 1956 and for each year an acreage reserve program is in effect. This is 17.8 percent above the 1956 allotment of 43,280,540 million acres. Placing corn acreage under the Acreage Reserve will not affect future farm bases or allotments for corn.

Corn Price Supports for 1956

The price support for the 1956 corn crop to cooperating producers in the commercial area has been announced at a national average rate of not less than $1.50 a bushel. The support to noncooperators in the commercial area, those who do not meet acreage requirements, will be based on a national average rate of not less than $1.25 a bushel. The level of support in noncommercial counties is mandatory at 82½ percent of the level of support to cooperators in the commercial area.

Farmers in the commercial corn area may qualify for the maximum price support for corn by: (1) Complying with their corn acreage allotments (established previously), or (2) complying with the Soil Bank price-support requirements for corn. Under the Soil Bank a corn producer must place an acreage equal to at least 15 percent of his Soil Bank corn base in either the Acreage Reserve for corn or in the Conservation Reserve, and he must not exceed the farm Soil Bank corn base to qualify for maximum price support.

Corn Price Supports and Acreage Allotments After 1956

After 1956, price support for corn in the commercial area would depend on the outcome of a referendum, to be conducted not later than December 15, 1956, to determine whether producers favor base acreages with price support "at such level as the Secretary determines will assist producers in marketing corn in the normal channels of trade, but not encourage the uneconomic production of corn," or whether producers favor acreage allotments, with price support at 75 to 90 percent of parity.

If two-thirds or more of the producers vote in favor of base acreages instead of acreage allotments, no acreage allotments of corn shall be established in the future and price supports would be determined by the Secretary as indicated above.

If producers vote in favor of acreage allotments, acreage allotments would be in effect for purposes of the Acreage Reserve program. Producers would have to comply with acreage allotments, but would not have to participate in the Soil Bank in order to be eligible for maximum support.

The effective parity for corn in 1957 will remain at the 1956 level of 95 percent of old parity, and not be reduced to 90 percent of the old parity as would have been the case under the provisions of the Act of 1954. The Secretary is required to make a thorough study of possible methods of improving the parity formula and report to Congress not later than January 31, 1957.

Price Supports for Other Feed Grains

The Act provided for price supports for 1956 crops of oats, barley and sorghum grains at 76 percent of the May 1 parity prices. The national average support prices so determined have been announced as follows: oats, 65 cents per bushel; barley, $1.02 per pushel and sorghum grain, $1.97 per 100 pounds. In 1957, if price support is made available for noncompliance corn in the commercial area, price support shall be made available for 1957 crops of oats, barley and sorghum grains, and corn produced outside the commercial corn producing area, at not less than 70 percent of parity at the beginning of the marketing year, and as the Secretary determines to be reasonable in relation to the level of support for noncompliance corn taking into consideration feeding value and other factors.

Corn Acreage Reserve Program

The Acreage Reserve program for basic crops was provided for in the Soil Bank Act for the period 1956 through 1959. Preliminary requirements for participation in the 1956 Acreage Reserve program were announced by

Secretary of Agriculture on June 8. Under the 1956 Acreage Reserve program, corn producers in the commercial area may earn payments by reducing their acreage of corn below the farm's established Soil Bank base acreage. County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committees will administer the program. The rates have been announced for the 1956 program only. Under the basic rules of eligibility, acreage designated for the Acreage Reserve must: (1) Be representative of the land used for the crop, (2) result in the harvesting of an acreage of corn less than the Soil Bank corn base acreage and (3) not be grazed after June 22, 1956, with certain exceptions, or cut for hay, or cropped for the entire 1956 calendar year. Noxious weeds must also be controlled on the "reserved" acreage.

In order to participate in the Acreage Reserve, a farmer must comply with all acreage allotments for all crops (or the Soil Bank base acreage in the case of corn).

The 1956 program, as provided by the law, contains special provisions and payments which enable farmers to participate this year. In addition to previously planned participation in the program a farmer will be eligible for payments under the program if he has underplanted his Soil Bank corn base because of adverse weather conditions, or if the crop was not harvested because of destruction by natural causes, or if he plows or otherwise physically incorporates the crop into the soil, or clips, mows, or cuts the crop not later than the disposal date specified for his area.

Maximum and minimum acreages of the basic crops which may be placed in the Acreage Reserve have been established by the Department of Agriculture. For corn, the maximum is the larger of half the Soil Bank corn base acreage or 50 acres. The minimum is the larger of 10 percent of the base acreage or 5 acres.

Payments for participation in the Acreage Reserve will be based on a national average rate of 90 cents per bushel (60 percent of the price support rate) for the 1956 corn crop and the normal yield for the designated acreage. The basis of payments which individual farmers can earn for participation in the Acreage Reserve by underplanting their base acreage will be determined by multiplying the normal yield of the farm, or the normal yield of the specific tract of land designated in the Acreage Reserve, whichever is smaller, by the applicable base unit rate, which is a county rate based on 60 percent of the preliminary county loan rate.

For destruction due to natural causes or for plowing or otherwise physically incorporating the crop into the soil, or for clipping, mowing, or cutting the crop, the payment will be based on the smaller of an appraised yield for the field or the normal yield for the farm, but will not be less than $6 per acre.

Conservation Reserve Program

Under the Conservation Reserve program the Secretary is authorized to enter into contracts with producers for a minimum period of 3 years and a maximum period of 10 years (15 years in the case of tree cover) under which the producer would devote a designated part of his cropland to conserving uses. He would agree not to harvest any crop from the designated acreage and not to graze it for a specified period except under certain emergency conditions. The Secretary would be authorized to pay a fair share of the cost of establishing the conservation use and, in addition, to make an annual payment to the producer which will provide a fair and reasonable annual return for the land diverted to conservation uses. The same farm acreage may not be included under both the Acreage Reserve and the Conservation Reserve programs.

Surplus Disposal

The Act authorizes the Secretary to appoint an Agricultural Surplus Disposal Administrator and provides for additional funds and authority for disposing of surplus feed grains and other commodities through increased exports and domestic use. The Act authorizes an annual appropriation of $500 million for each fiscal year beginning with 1956-57 to enable the Secretary to further carry out the provisions of Section 32; Public Law 320. Not more than 50 percent of such funds may be used for any one commodity. The Act also authorizes the payment of ocean freight charges for commodities donated for foreign relief under Public Law 480 or Section 416. The limitation on expenditures for foreign relief was increased from $300 million to $500 million. A commission also is to be appointed by the President to make recommendations for increased industrial uses of Agricultural commodities, which would include the feed grains.

FEED GRAINS AND HAY: DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EARLY-SEASON AND FINAL ESTIMATES OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND FACTORS USED IN MAKING OUTLOOK FORECASTS [1]

by
Hyman Weingarten

SUMMARY

It is well known that the size of crops produced each year cannot be estimated as precisely early in the season as it can be later. During later months many unpredictable factors, such as hail, excessive rain, and drought, may cause final production to differ from that expected earlier. As these events cannot be predicted, the best assumption to make is that conditions during the remainder of the season will be average.

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[1] The research on which this article is based was carried on under authority of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (RMA, Title II). Copies of the full article may be obtained by writing the Division of Marketing Information, Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

In assessing a situation, the economic analyst wants at hand the best estimate of the crop under consideration based on what is known about the marketing season thus far. Assuming no consistent statistical bias in the forecasts, the best indication of actual production to date is the figure contained in the report released by the Crop Reporting Board. The economic analyst wants also some measure of the reliability of these forecasts. He wishes to know (1) what proportion of the factors that affect final production is known, on the average, at a given date, and therefore are reflected in the forecast of the Crop Reporting Board, and (2) what proportion is unknown and hence may affect the final outturn during the remainder of the season.

This report is concerned with providing measures of this type, both for the estimates of the Board and for certain other factors that are taken as "given" in price analysis work.

This article summarizes a phase of a research project that was designed to learn (1) how much successive monthly forecasts of harvests of several feed grains and hays differ from the final estimate, and (2) whether early-season forecasts are statistically biased. Similar analyses were made for (1) disposable income, (2) forecasts of supply and utilization of feed concentrates and number of animal units fed, and (3) estimates of season-average price.

No statistical bias was found in the early-season forecasts of feed grains and hay. As would be expected, differences between early-season and December figures, on the average, diminish steadily as the season advances (fig. 1). Figure 2 shows the percentage of year-to-year change in the estimate in the December crop summary that, on the average, can be forecast by making use of each of the preceding monthly forecasts issued by the Crop Reporting Board. Beginning with the respective months of harvest for the feed grains and the total hay crop, year-to-year indications of production are closely associated with year-to-year changes in estimates published in December. Commodities included in this study are corn, oats, barley, sorghum grains, alfalfa, clover and timothy, lespedeza, and all hay.

Forecasts of the supply of feed concentrates appear in certain issues of The Feed Situation. As was true for forecasts of crops harvests, differences between early-season and preliminary figures at the end of the feeding year, on the average, diminish steadily as the feeding season progresses. Analyses of data available for the period 1944-53 suggest that at the beginning of the feeding year in October, approximately 97 percent of the year-to-year variation in total supply can be forecast. Adjustments in succeeding months increase this percentage. For the period 1939-53, forecasts in October of grain-consuming animal units to be fed during the forthcoming October-September feeding year explained about 93 percent of the year-to-year variation in the final figures. Not enough data from these series were available to warrant a test for bias.

Advance forecasts of probable changes in the level of disposable income from the preceding feeding year also are made in October. These forecasts account for 85 to 90 percent of the actual variation.

Preliminary estimates of season-average prices for the United States are issued by the Crop Reporting Board annually in December and May. In these series, State prices are weighted by production and sales, respectively. The analyst is interested chiefly in the extent to which one series can be substituted for another. This study indicates that hay is the only crop for which results differ significantly, depending on whether prices are weighted by production or sales.

Production Forecasts for Feed Grains and Hay

The first forecast of production of corn is published by the Crop Reporting Board in July; similar forecasts are issued monthly thereafter through November. These forecasts are based on estimated acreage and the condition of the crop or the probable yield expected by producers on the first of the month, assuming average weather, disease, and insect conditions for the remainder of the growing season. The estimate of production issued in the December annual summary report is preliminary; a revised estimate is published in the report in the following December. A further revision is based on census benchmark data published every 5 years and is made as soon as possible after the data become available. Similar information is issued for the other feed grains and hay crops.

One way that differences between early-season forecasts and final production estimates can be studied is in terms of the standard deviations of such differences. With the kind of data analyzed in this study, the size of the standard deviation directly indicates the size of the differences between any given monthly forecast and the preliminary December estimate. 2/ On the average, differences that are greater than the computed standard deviation occur approximately a third of the time and, in 1 year out of 20, differences are expected to exceed two standard deviations; differences greater than three standard deviations are rare.

A July forecast for corn, for example, was first published in 1912. Based on data for 1912-54, the computed standard deviation of the difference between this forecast and the preliminary December estimate is 319 million bushels, or 12 percent of the average crop for the period. In 14 out of 43 years, the actual differences (plus or minus) were greater than 319 million bushels--or one standard deviation. They were less than this in the remaining 29 years. In only 3 out of the 43 years, the actual differences were greater than 638 million bushels--two standard deviations. In no case was the actual difference greater than three standard deviations.

2/ A standard deviation is a measure of the amount of scatter or dispersion about an average. It is characteristic of a normal distribution that the average plus or minus one standard deviation ordinarily includes about two-thirds of the observations. In this study, the average difference over a long period of time is assumed to be zero.

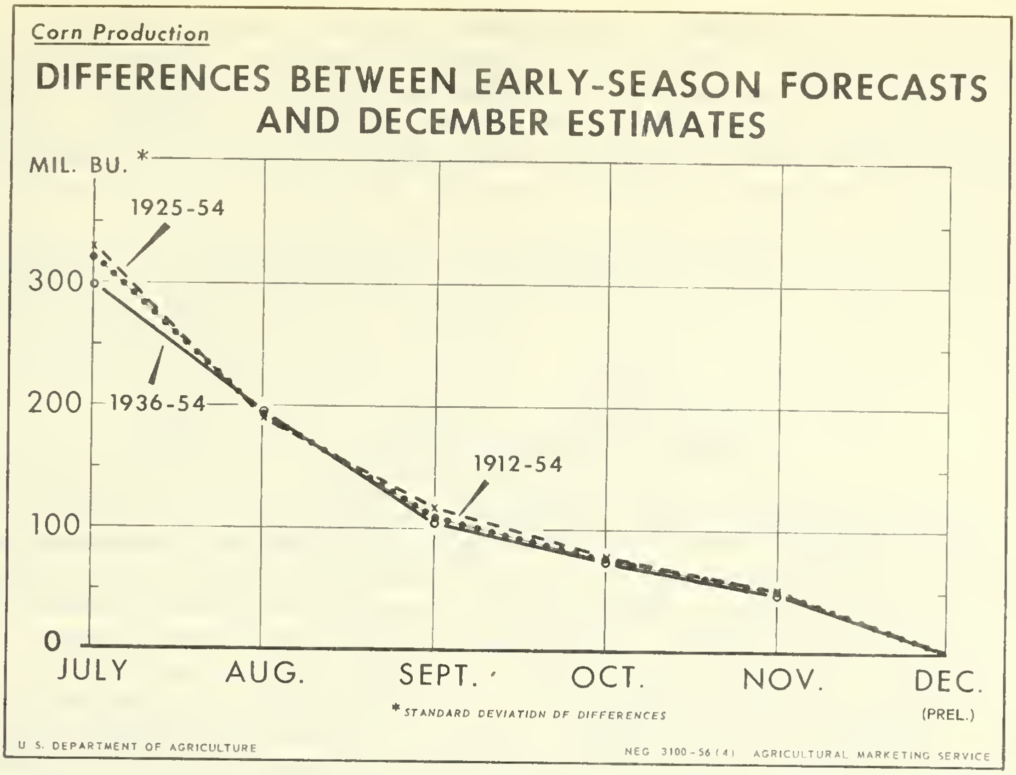

Figure 1

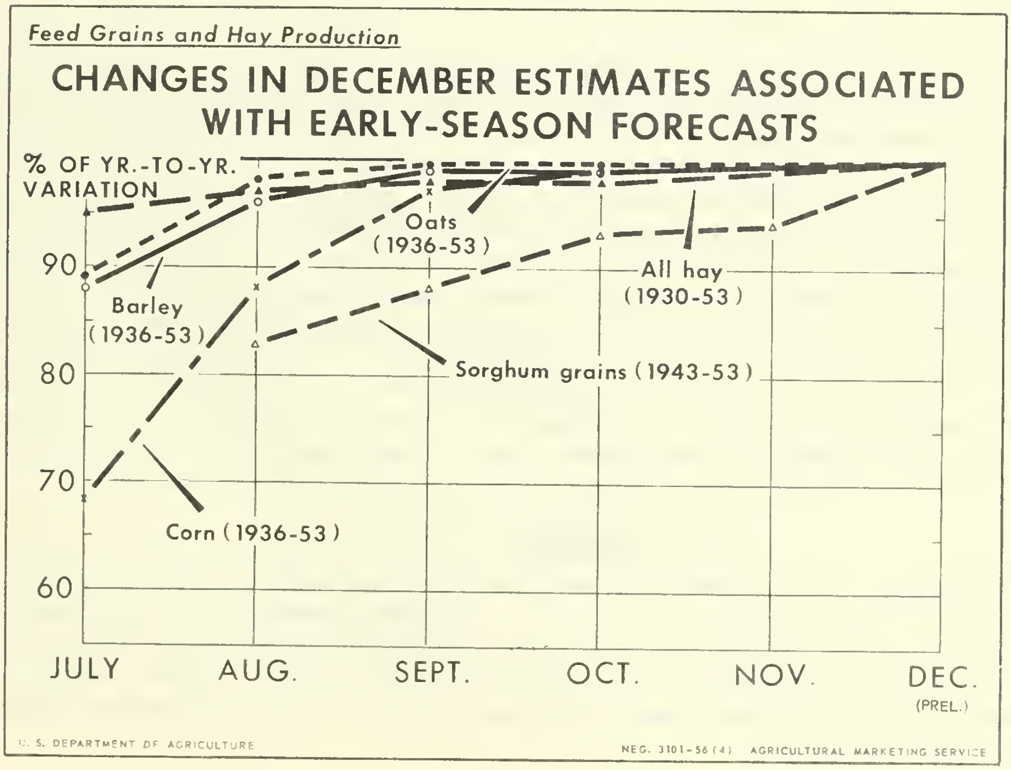

Figure 2

For the August forecast, the standard deviation of its difference from the preliminary December estimate is 192 million bushels. This declines to 109 million bushels in September, to 75 million bushels at the beginning of the feeding year in October, and to 49 million bushels in November. Figure 1 shows standard deviations in million bushels based on data for the periods 1912-54, 1925-54, and 1936-54. The lines for the three periods are nearly identical.

Another way to study the usefulness of the early-season production forecasts in connection with price or utilization forecasts is in terms of the percentage of year-to-year change in production that could be forecast by making use of early-season estimates. These are summarized in figure 2 for the various crops, using a consistent time period to the extent possible.

Using monthly forecasts of production for 1936-53, only 68 percent of the year-to-year variation in the preliminary December estimate of the production of *corn* is associated with the July forecast, but this percentage increases to 88 in August, 97 in September and 99 in October. The analyses of *oats* show that the first forecast in July is associated with about 89 percent of the year-to-year changes in the December production estimate, and this increases to 98 in August, and to more than 99 in September and October. For *barley*, the July forecast is associated with 88 percent of the year-to-year variation in December, and this increases to 96 percent in August and to 99 percent in September and October. The first forecast for *sorghum grains* is published in August. Based on data for 1943-53, a percentage of associated variation of 83 is indicated for forecasts made in that month. This percentage increases steadily to 94 in November. Percentage adjustments after December have been 1 percent or less, on the average, for all feed grains.

For the years 1930-53, about 95 percent of the year-to-year variation in the preliminary December estimate of total *hay* production is accounted for by the July forecast, and this increases to 98 percent by October. Similar coefficients for *alfalfa* range between 90 and 97 percent for July through October in the period 1927-53, and for *clover and timothy* range between 97 and 98 percent for July through September for the years 1935-53. On the average, percentage adjustments of about 10 percent occur when revisions of these crops are considered in the following December. When census data become available, a correction of 5 percent occurs for *clover and timothy* and nearly 15 percent for *alfalfa* and *all hay*. Data on *lespedeza* hay are available only from 1947 to date. Analyses for 1947-53 indicate that about 78 percent of the year-to-year variation in the December estimate is associated with the last forecast made on October 1 but revisions after the preliminary December estimate were minor.

Disposable Income

Forecasts of disposable income usually are made by quarters for about a year ahead by the Farm Income Branch of Agricultural Marketing Service. These forecasts are intended for use by commodity analysts and other research workers within the Agricultural Economics Division who prepare outlook and situation reports. Outlook analyses may be made either by feeding years or by individual quarters.

The fall forecast of disposable income, usually made in October, can be regarded as an early-season forecast when figures are compiled on a feeding-year basis. Between 85 and 90 percent of the variation in year-to-year changes in the revised estimate for the feeding year was associated with the fall forecast. For analyses of individual quarters, the percentage of variation in year-to-year changes in revised estimates associated with the forecast change from the preceding year was more than 99 percent for those forecasts made 1 quarter in advance, approximately 90 percent for those made 2 quarters in advance, and about 80 percent for forecasts made 3 and 4 quarters in advance.

Supply and Utilization of Feed Concentrates and Number of Animal Units Fed

The July issue of The Feed Situation prior to the beginning of the feeding year contains forecasts of certain supply and demand factors in the forthcoming year. These are presented in a table on the feed concentrate balance and relate to the supply and utilization of feed concentrates and the number of animal units to be fed. Successive forecasts are continued throughout the feeding year. In the period covered by this study, "preliminary" estimates for the preceding feeding year are published in the October Situation; a "revised" estimate is given in the December Situation. Data given in Grain and Feed Statistics through 1954 [3] are taken as "final" for the respective series, although more recent revisions have become available since the completion of this study.

Data considered in these analyses are stocks of feed concentrates at the beginning and at the end of the October-September feeding year; total production of feed grains; other grains fed; byproduct feeds fed; total supply of feed concentrates; total concentrates fed, feed grains for seed, human food, industry, and export; total utilization; livestock production units; and number of grain-consuming animal units fed annually. Data relating to forecasts for the factor last named are available for years beginning in 1939; recorded forecasts for all other series begin with 1944. For livestock production units, only forecasts that appear in outlook issues of the Situation are studied; because of lack of sufficient data, analyses are in terms of standard deviations only.

Stated as a percentage, the standard deviation of the differences between forecasts and preliminary October estimates at the close of the feeding year for most series is small. Percentages are relatively large for "other grains fed." Differences in percentage terms for stocks at the end of the feeding year are similarly large through December of the feeding year beginning in October. Nevertheless, neither difference, on the average, exceeds normal year-to-year variation.

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[3] Grain and Feed Statistics. U. S. Dept. Agr. Statis. Bul. 159, pp. 2-3, 1955.

Forecasts of supplies of feed concentrates were studied also in terms of the percentage of variation of year-to-year changes in the various series. More than 99 percent of the variation in stocks of feed grains as of the start of the feeding year can be forecast as early as July. Total production of feed grains give results by October that are almost as good. Changes in the first forecast in July were found to be associated with 85 percent of the variation in the preliminary October figure, and the percentage increases to more than 99 percent at the start of the feeding year. Changes in the quantity of byproduct feeds available for feeding cannot be predicted with any degree of reliability until the second half of the feeding year. Percentages of associated variation are less than 50 percent for forecasts issued in July through December for the feeding season beginning in October, but increase to 87 percent when the April-May Situation is published. Advance forecasts of other grains fed are less reliable, as forecasts account for less than 50 percent of the year-to-year changes in the preliminary October estimate throughout the feeding year. When total supply of feed concentrates is considered, however, the July forecast before the start of the feeding year is associated with approximately 91 percent of the year-to-year changes in the preliminary figure, and the percentage increases to 97 percent at the beginning of the feeding season.

In the case of forecasts of feed grains for human food, seed, industry and export, year-to-year changes in the preliminary October figure are associated with about 83 percent of the variation in the aggregate forecast at the start of the feeding year in October and to more than 99 percent by September. Year-to-year changes in forecasts of total concentrates fed and total utilization appearing at the beginning of the feeding season produce associations of 69 and 76 percent, respectively. Forecasts by September account for approximately 97 and 98 percent, respectively, of the variation in the preliminary October estimate.

Year-to-year changes in forecasts made in October of carryover stocks at the end of the feeding year account for approximately 63 percent of the variation in the preliminary estimate. The percentage of associated variation improves as the feeding season progresses and 99 percent of the changes in the preliminary estimate are accounted for by year-to-year changes in forecasts appearing in the July Situation.

Forecasts at the start of the feeding season in October of grain-consuming animal units fed annually were found to be associated with 93 percent of the variation in the preliminary figure. This percentage increases steadily through the feeding year and, at its close, accounts for more than 99 percent of the variation in the preliminary October estimate.

With the exception of other grains fed, total concentrates fed, and total utilization, percentage adjustments after the October estimate at the close of the feeding year have been 2 percent or less, on the average, for all series.

Season-Average Prices

Two sets of estimates of season-average prices for the United States are published by the Crop Reporting Board annually in December and May and then successively revised. Essentially, these represent estimates of the season-average price received by farmers in individual States, weighted by estimated quantities (1) produced and (2) sold to derive average prices for the country for the crop year. The estimates include allowances for quantities bought by the Government under purchase agreements and loan quantities unredeemed (and therefore considered sold to the Government) at the end of the crop marketing season.

The analyst is interested chiefly in the extent to which one series can be substituted for another as a measure of year-to-year change as they are published at different times. With the exception of sorghum grains, year-to-year changes in simple averages are associated with at least 96 percent of the year-to-year variation in final estimates of season-average price weighted by production. Of the crops studied, hay is the only one for which the results differ significantly, depending on the alternative weights used. For all crops except corn, the preliminary December estimate is a close approximation to the final season-average price.

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Table 12.- Feed grains: Distribution of July 1 stocks, United States, 1954-56

Year	Farm	Terminal market	Commodity Credit Corporation 1/	Interior mill, elevator, and warehouse	Total
	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
			Corn		
1954	989,888	15,945	336,110	64,936	1,406,879
1955	960,056	36,803	494,344	110,071	1,601,274
1956	993,311	78,045	512,331	162,165	1,745,852
			Oats		
1954	196,373	4,872	714	24,682	226,641
1955	237,214	15,833	8,512	41,134	302,693
1956	271,674	27,585	6,697	40,639	346,595
			Barley		
1954	35,393	9,121	1,345	25,285	71,144
1955	44,153	23,525	1,487	61,385	130,550
1956	39,499	35,980	723	38,637	114,839
			Sorghum in		
1956	13,991	23,957	2	79,709	117,669

1/ Owned by CCC and stored in bins or other storage owned or controlled by CCC, in transit to ports, or in Canadian elevators. Other CCC-owned grain is included in the estimates by positions.

Table 13.- Feed grains: Planted and harvested acreages, United States, average 1949-53, annual 1948-56 1/

Year	Corn, all purposes		Oats		Barley		Sorghums all purposes 2/	
	Planted	Harvested	Planted	Harvested	Planted	Harvested	Planted	Harvested
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres
Average 1949-53	83,335	81,908	42,950	37,376	10,747	9,473	13,805	12,633
1948	85,522	84,778	43,838	39,280	13,063	11,905	13,214	12,679
1949	86,738	85,595	43,132	37,794	11,132	9,872	11,064	10,789
1950	82,859	81,818	45,044	39,306	13,010	11,155	16,055	15,414
1951	83,275	80,729	41,015	35,233	10,790	9,424	15,028	13,995
1952	82,230	80,940	42,341	37,012	9,190	8,236	12,289	10,737
1953	81,574	80,459	43,220	37,536	9,615	8,680	14,590	12,230
1954	82,185	80,186	46,898	40,551	14,740	13,370	20,148	18,173
1955 3/	81,492	79,900	47,379	39,138	16,348	14,553	23,964	20,874
1956 4/	79,016	77,596	44,471	35,427	14,833	12,867	22,137	19,897

1/ Data for 1949-55 revised on the basis of the 1954 Census of Agriculture.
2/ Acreage planted and harvested for all purposes including sirup.
3/ Preliminary.
4/ Indicated July 1.

Table 14.- Feed grains: Production, United States, average 1949-53, annual 1948-56 1/

Year	Corn		Oats	Barley	Sorghum grain	Total 2/
	All purposes	For grain				
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Average 1949-53	3,148,062	2,840,362	1,247,520	254,589	150,271	118,424
1948	3,605,078	3,307,038	1,450,186	315,537	131,384	135,397
1949	3,237,749	2,946,206	1,220,118	237,071	148,494	120,026
1950	3,074,914	2,764,071	1,369,199	303,772	233,536	121,834
1951	2,925,758	2,628,937	1,277,647	257,213	162,863	113,097
1952	3,291,994	2,980,793	1,217,433	228,168	90,741	119,672
1953	3,209,896	2,881,801	1,153,205	246,723	115,719	117,490
1954	3,057,891	2,707,913	1,409,601	379,254	235,295	123,865
1955 3/	3,241,536	2,900,000	1,499,282	400,295	241,100	131,109
1956 4/	3,266,688	5/	1,143,929	347,696	5/	6/124,115

1/ Data for 1949-55 revised on basis of 1954 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Includes production of corn for all purposes. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ Indicated July 1. 5/ Not yet available. 6/ Includes an allowance of 6.0 million tons for sorghum grain production.

Table 15.- Corn, oats, and barley: Production by regions, average 1945-54, annual 1954-56

Year	North Atlantic	East North Central	West North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	United States
	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels
				Corn 1/			
Average 1945-54	106	1,084	1,334	217	316	27	3,084
1954	117	1,204	1,311	175	216	35	3,058
1955	109	1,251	1,233	246	351	52	3,242
1956 2/	112	1,202	1,363	225	320	45	3,267
				Oats			
Average 1945-54	58	416	685	46	70	52	1,327
1954	63	412	713	60	108	54	1,410
1955	67	502	742	52	82	54	1,499
1956 2/	50	407	496	59	85	47	1,144
				Barley			
Average 1945-54	8	12	112	8	7	131	278
1954	12	14	130	11	14	198	379
1955	12	18	151	11	11	197	400
1956 2/	13	15	112	12	13	183	348

1/ Production for all purposes.
2/ Indicated July 1.

Table 16.- Feed grains: Stocks owned by CCC, by position, July 1, 1956

Grain	CCC bin sites	Country warehouses and elevators	Sub-terminal elevators	Terminal elevators	In transit 1/	Total
	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
Corn	512,331	114,113	27,069	45,867	1,409	700,789
Oats	6,697	23,250	2,139	15,760	10,702	58,548
Barley	723	15,590	2,197	24,885	17,078	60,473
Sorghum grain	12	68,288	28,470	3,277	1,435	101,482

Compiled from reports of Commodity Stabilization Service, Grain Division.

Table 17 .- Production, stocks, and foreign trade in byproduct feeds, foreign trade in feed grains, and corn and barley processing, May and June 1956, with comparisons 1/

Commodity	Production					Stocks 2/				
	1954-55 season 3/	May 1955	1956			Oct. 1, 1954	June 1 1955	1956		
			Mar.	Apr.	May			Apr. 1	May 1	June 1
	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons
Byproduct feeds										
Soybean cake and meal	5,704.8	480.0	584.4	583.6	570.2	61.6	100.8	178.0	201.5	212.8
Cottonseed cake and meal	2,515.4	139.6	230.0	179.4	123.1	205.0	266.9	250.7	258.4	245.7
Linseed cake and meal	544.8	37.0	58.3	40.2	55.7	39.8	26.9	29.8	24.6	33.0
Peanut cake and meal	18.5	1.4	6.0	7.5	9.2	1.3	2.4	6.1	7.7	8.3
Copra cake and meal	117.4	9.9	8.6	9.3	8.7	5.6	5.0	1.0	1.1	.9
Total	8,900.9	667.9	887.3	820.0	766.9	313.3	402.0	465.6	493.3	500.7
Corn gluten feed and meal	1,004.6	83.6	86.7	80.8	89.4	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/
Brewers' dried grains	238.4	25.1	5/21.6	21.0	23.0	6.0	3.4	5/2.5	1.9	1.7
Distillers' dried grains	249.9	18.4	5/26.1	25.9	26.9	3.3	3.3	5/4.6	3.0	2.9
Wheat millfeeds	4,477.1	349.9	5/369.1	335.0	365.0	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/
Rice millfeeds	303.0	40.0	11.1	8.8	12.0	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/
Alfalfa meal	1,398.6	167.5	5/26.3	31.0	116.0	377.3	120.6	5/181.5	116.4	129.1
Fish meal	5/236.7	15.1	3.3	8.1	24.1	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/
Dry or powdered skim milk	8.4	1.2	.7	.8	.9	.4	.6	.5	.7	.8

Commodity	Foreign trade									
	Imports					Exports				
	1954-55 season 3/	May 1955	1956			1954-55 season 3/	May 1955	1956		
			Mar.	Apr.	May			Mar.	Apr.	May
	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons
Soybean cake and meal	0	0	0	0	0	271.7	7.7	27.6	29.8	22.5
Cottonseed cake and meal	32.3	3.2	4.8	5.3	6.4	167.8	10.2	3.6	2.8	3.7
Linseed cake and meal	0	0	0	0	0	75.0	2.5	6.2	4.8	3.6
Peanut cake and meal	0	0	0	0	0	1.6	0	4/	4/	4/
Copra cake and meal	62.8	7.9	6.1	5.3	5.9	0	0	4/	4/	4/
Total	95.1	11.1	10.9	10.6	12.3	516.1	20.4	37.4	37.4	29.8
Wheat millfeeds	99.5	12.0	7.1	7.3	9.8	9.3	.1	4/	4/	4/
Fish meal	82.5	10.3	8.3	12.6	10.8	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/
Tankage	12.6	.7	.6	2.5	1.0	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/
	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
Feed grains										
Corn, including products _/	1,138	89	99	26	95	102,903	5,166	8,676	10,632	12,670
Oats, including oatmeal	20,024	1,275	249	150	141	15,427	1,527	893	4,037	3,386
Barley, including malt	24,109	1,851	692	4,008	3,338	43,369	4,870	8,418	11,750	10,384
Sorghum grain	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	47,805	5,220	6,467	4,381	4,338

Commodity	Grain processing or use						
	1954-55 season 3/	1955		1956			
		April	May	February	March	April	May
	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
Corn							
Wet-processing	138,568	10,621	11,524	12,036	11,963	11,142	12,329
Distilled spirits and alcohol	22,466	1,941	1,734	2,360	2,635	2,560	6/
Barley							
Malt liquors	77,272	7,117	7,730	5,726	6,732	6,836	7,480
Distilled spirits and alcohol	5,253	479	424	582	622	589	6/

1/ Data compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior, and Price Waterhouse and Company, New York. 2/ At processors' plants. 3/ October-September year for all items except oats and barley which is July-June. 4/ Not reported. 5/ Revised. 6/ Not available at the time of the preparation of this report.

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